

# Emergency Response News



July 2000

## IDEM Responds To Truck Accident Involving Hazardous Materials on I-65 S

*Local and State agencies coordinate response and cleanup efforts.*



The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) oversaw transport of a damaged semi-trailer containing hazardous substances and cleanup of diesel fuel following an accident on southbound I-65 between Columbus and Seymour in Bartholomew County.

At approximately 5 a.m. on July 7, the State Emergency Management Agency called IDEM to report a semi had veered off the interstate and slid into a ditch. One of its fuel tanks had ripped in half, and the other had several punctures. Approximately 150 gallons of diesel fuel had spilled onto the interstate and adjacent right of way. The cargo included several hundred pounds of corrosive and flammable substances.

An IDEM emergency responder assisted area emergency response personnel during investigative and removal actions. The responder noticed soil contaminated with diesel fuel. He also determined that to upright the semi might cause containers to rupture and release hazardous materials. Therefore before it could be inspected, the tractor-trailer had to be lifted by two huge cranes to the interstate. A hazardous materials team then entered the trailer and found a container with flammable material unaffected. The semi was towed to a nearby State Police weigh station, where its cargo was transferred to another semi. Traffic on the interstate was affected for almost 16 hours.

Agencies responding included Jonesville Fire Department, Columbus Fire Department's hazardous materials team, Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Transportation, and Bartholomew County Sheriff.

IDEM supervised removal of contaminated soil and restoration of effected area by the responsible party's contractor. Operation completed on July 8.

### Site Snapshot

#### IDEM action:

Response to hazardous materials and cleanup of contaminated soil

#### Location:

I-65 southbound between Columbus and Seymour

#### Primary substances of concern:

Diesel fuel and corrosive and flammable substances

#### Environmental threats:

Potential contamination to surface water if diesel fuel left in place, and potential human health exposure from hazardous substances

For further information about IDEM's Emergency Response actions, contact staff at the following phone numbers or toll free (800) 451-6027.

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